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GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

June 5, 1959

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

On July 13, we add the first full-time teachers to our staff when Anilee Rollins and Joy Kovar transfer from USDA's Office of Personnel to operate our reading improvement program.

With the approval of our General Administration Board, we have contracted with the Department of Agriculture to give reading improvement courses to Department employees on official time. In addition we plan to offer the courses to other Government agencies.

The program will continue to use facilities on loan from USDA in room 418 West Building. Anilee Rollins will be in charge of the program under the general supervision of Assistant Director Edmund N. Fulker. Employees who wish to take the course on official time or to have their agency pay for the course when it is taken in after-hours classes should make requests to their own personnel officers. We shall continue to offer the course in reading improvement in our evening program for students who pay their own fees.

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We glimpsed another vista of Washington's educational resources at our faculty luncheon in May when Father John M. Daly, S. J., Dean of the Georgetown University Graduate School told us about that school, its growth from 47 students when he enrolled there in 1942 to more than 900 this year, and some of the innovations for 1959-60. These include:

- a full-time program of Slavic studies, open to college graduates with a reading knowledge of Russian and leading at the end of three years to a Ph.D.
- a one-year graduate program of Latin American studies that cuts across departmental lines, gives the student knowledge of the history, government, economics, and anthropology of a specified area, and leads to an M.A.

--graduate work in biophysics focusing on the relevance of advances in nuclear physics to human health, open to students in any of the basic preclinical sciences, and administered by a rotating committee of three faculty members.

--a new post-doctoral program in oral surgery, now limited by facilities to five students each year, but expected to serve a much larger number of dentists and to stimulate similar work in graduate schools in other universities.

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Man's newest window on the universe--radio astronomy--is much broader than the optical window through which he has studied the heavens. It is giving us new knowledge that not only increases our understanding of the cosmos but has a bearing on such practical matters as weather forecasts and broadcasting, according to Robert M. Page, Director of Research, Naval Research Laboratory, in our bonus lecture of the SCIENCE series, May 13.

Dr. Page, whose distinguished work in precision instrumentation and pulse radar has contributed to the exploration of space, describes space as "all regions unearthy but not immaterial."

He used slides to illustrate many of the exciting advances in radio engineering and astrophysics in the past few years. Among them:

- the use of radar to track weather and warn of storms;
- radio-equipped balloons to study movement of air, 60 thousand feet high, in streams flowing from Japan, across the Pacific, the North American continent, and the Atlantic to western Europe where the equipment is parachuted to earth;
- the huge radio antennae for short pulse radar studies of the moon that show the moon can be used as a relay for radio signals.

Dr. Page also showed pictures of:

- solar flares that shoot out of the sun's surface with temperatures high enough to produce X-rays;
- nebula of stars far out in space that are more powerful radio sources than visible stars.

J. P. Schaenzer, Chairman of the Department of Engineering, was responsible for our invitation to Dr. Page.

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According to the USDA YEARBOOK for 1910, there were "34,267 appointments of every description" in the Department of Agriculture. Among them was a young man stenographer from Boston, who became one of the 2,414 employees in Washington and who has watched the service and influence of USDA extend throughout the world. The young man was Henry A. Donovan, chairman of our Department of Office Techniques and Operations. He has been associated with the Graduate School since 1941.

When our General Administration Board approved the list of committee and council members for the coming year, Mr. Donovan was invited to continue his post

with us even though he is retiring, July 31, as deputy executive assistant administrator for management of the Agricultural Research Service.

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Quotes from HOW WE TEACH

"Students are not receptacles to be filled but torches to be lit. I think our most effective teachers are those who...get their students excited and enthusiastic about the subject...I think that any instructor, particularly in the scientific subjects, can evaluate himself rather easily on this basis. If he sees that he is generating enthusiasm, a feeling of adventure, he will know he is successful. This involves a great deal of feedback. Some instructors are very good at this. Others apparently are incapable of giving more than formal lectures. Of course if the group is too large, feedback diminishes rather speedily. I look with favor on teachers who teach different subject matter every year. The topic may be the same, but new material is used. In general those teachers are most effective. Also those who continue their own studies and research are, by and large, better teachers than those who do not."

Hewitt G. Fletcher, Chief, Section on Carbohydrates,
National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic
Diseases, NIH, at Kenwood, January 24, 1959.

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Among new ideas for Book Store service that Vera Jensen brought back from the National Association of College Stores is a plasticized plaque for diplomas, awards, and certificates. The plaque comes in varied finishes at a price that seems to be quite reasonable. If you are interested, Miss Jensen has a sample on display in her office, Room 1022.

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Our good wishes go with two members of our staff who resigned this month--Wilma Walters, who has served for the past two years as secretary to the Director and Shirley Coleman. Mrs. Walters is assuming home responsibilities and Miss Coleman plans to return to West Virginia.

Jean Acuff, who has been secretary to the Assistant Director and the Registrar, has become Secretary to the Director. Carol Ann Hazard, now at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, will take over Miss Acuff's former duties.

Another new member of our staff is Lindsay Hammonds, full-time this summer and part-time during the school year. He will be a senior next fall at Chamberlain Vocational High School.

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"It takes some time to get the students to speak up freely, so that you are certain they are saying what they believe, rather than trying to say what they think I want to hear. They will do it in a very short time as soon as they find I am sincere and want them to evaluate the course and the teacher."

Kenneth Wright at Kenwood, January 24, 1959
HOW WE TEACH

John M. Brewster, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Relations, marshalled a sparkling array of ideas from the history of philosophy and facts from modern economic research to illuminate his thesis that advancing technology does not spell the doom of the family farm in America in an article published simultaneously in the JOURNAL OF FARM ECONOMICS (December 1958) and THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS SOCIETY (Vol. 6, no. 2).

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Lewis H. Rohrbaugh, former Director of the Graduate School, has resigned as Provost of the University of Arkansas to become Vice-president of Boston University. He assumes his new duties at the end of the summer.

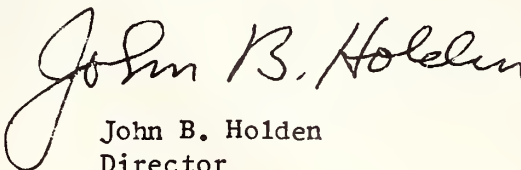
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Thomas L. Saaty, who has spent the past year in London on a Government assignment, expects to be back in Washington to resume teaching in the Graduate School this fall. He will offer courses in operations research and in queuing.

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Awards of \$1,000 each for speeches or articles on public leadership have been announced by THE FUND FOR ADULT EDUCATION. For details write the FUND'S Office of Information, 200 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, N. Y.

Sincerely,


John B. Holden
Director